

ABSTRACT

A content-duplication management system formed from a playback apparatus that requests and plays contents, and a content-duplication management apparatus that manages duplication and deletion of contents. The playback apparatus notifies group information of the playback apparatus to the content-duplication management apparatus, acquires information from the content-duplication management apparatus showing whether requests are permitted, and duplicates/deletes contents. By judging whether the playback apparatus belongs to a group, and notifying whether a duplication request is permitted or rejected, based on in-group and out-group remaining numbers that show the remaining number of duplications permitted of apparatuses in-group and out-group, respectively, the content-duplication management apparatus relaxes restrictions on in-group content duplication as compared with out-group content duplication, and thus improves convenience for users in a home network, while protecting the rights of copyright holders, with respect to content duplication and usage.